



The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

Guidance for applying for the Midwifery Research Fellowship

Introduction to the Midwifery Research Fellowship

The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust is delighted to announce our 2027 Iolanthe Midwifery Research Fellowship. The purpose of this award is to assist a midwife in the final stages of completing their doctorate degree. This award is unique in targeting the writing up phase rather than the research phase of the doctorate. The aim is to facilitate the final writing process – for example the applicant might choose to use the funding to buy time out from their clinical or teaching duties.

Iolanthe Midwifery Research Fellowship at a glance	
Amount Granted	Maximum £25,000
When to Apply	Applications open on 1st Dec 2026 and close on 1st February 2027 . The award winner will be announced in early June 2027 .
Eligibility Criteria	For NMC registered midwives who are PhD students registered with a UK university. They must have completed or be in the final stages of the actual research study (i.e. data collection and analysis) and intend to submit their thesis within 12 months of the start of the award (or 24 months for part-time PhD students). There is some flexibility about the start date depending on the stage of research. Please contact awards@iolanthe.org if in any doubt.

Requirements of the award

There are a number of requirements that must be met in order to receive the award.

- The award winner must submit a timetable for the work and provide evidence that they are reaching the milestones in order for funding to be released. The framework will include a date for submission of the doctoral thesis.
- The award winner's academic supervisor must agree to submit quarterly reports on the student's progress and the likelihood of the student reaching the milestones set.
- The doctoral thesis must be submitted within 12 months from the start of the award (24 months for part-time PhD students) and must fully acknowledge the support received from the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust. There is some flexibility about the start date for the award depending on the stage of research. Please contact awards@iolanthe.org if in any doubt.
- The award winner will give a paper at a minimum of one future Iolanthe Midwifery Trust event if invited.
- The award winner should have a clear dissemination plan including papers for publication.
- The award winner will acknowledge the assistance of the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust on all publications and presentations of the work related to the PhD.
- If you are applying for the MRF, you cannot apply for any other Iolanthe Award in the same year.
- If you have previously received an individual Iolanthe Award, you must wait two years before applying again. For example, a 2025 Award winner could next apply for a 2027 Award. The Jean Davies Award is the only Iolanthe Award that may be applied for by a team and is therefore the exception. If you have



previously been part of a team who was given the Jean Davies Award, you may apply for the MRF with no specific amount of time needing to pass.

Process of funding

An amount of up to £25,000 will be made available to the successful award winner. The funding will be staged and will not be given as a total sum. Payments will be made retrospectively in four quarterly amounts (four 6 monthly payments for part-time students). The award winner and their supervisor will have to confirm that the agreed milestones have been met, and that submission will be achieved within the 12 (24) month period, before the payment is released.

The award is a personal award and as such will only be paid directly to an individual rather than to a hospital or other institution. It is up to the individual to make their own arrangements for buying out time or arranging staff to cover work.

The award may be taxable in the hands of the Research Fellow and it will be their responsibility to register with HM Revenue and Customs, to notify them of the award and pay any tax payable in relation to the award. Failure to do so may result in HM Revenue and Customs levying penalties and/or interest. The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust has no liability in relation to National Insurance Contributions, tax, interest or penalties which become payable in relation to the award.

Application Process and Guide to Completing the Online Application Form

Applicants should complete the Iolanthe Midwifery Research Fellowship online application form available at <https://www.iolanthe.org/research-fellowship>

We have designed the form to be as easy as possible to fill in. If you have any difficulties understanding what is required please contact awards@iolanthe.org and we will be able to help you.

If you do use AI to help you draft your application, please make sure it's a realistic and honest reflection of your proposal. When you apply to us we want to learn about you and what you want to do. The writing style or grammar doesn't matter to us. What we are interested in is what you're trying to achieve and how you're going to do it.

Short-listed applicants may be asked to attend a zoom call with the trustees as part of the assessment process.

Below are some further explanations to help you fill in the form.

*** indicates essential reading**

Field	Explanation
*Data protection	Applying for an award will require you to go to our online application system on an external website based in the USA. By saving or submitting the application form, you are agreeing to have your data stored and processed outside of the EU as well as by Iolanthe Midwifery Trust. Further details about what this means and the rights you have over the data can be found in our Privacy Policy
*Saving the application	You can save the application at any time by clicking on Save at the end of the form. You can then continue entering data or choose to resume later. If you want to come back later, you will be given a link (or choose to have the link sent to you in an email) so you can return to the form at another time. Please note: The form does not save automatically if you use the back button or close the browser tab or window.
Telephone	A mobile number is preferred



Email addresses	We request two email addresses in case your preferred email address is linked with a job or place of study which expires when you move on. This is particularly difficult if it happens in the course of the award administration.
PIN	To be eligible for this award, applicants must have an entry as a Registered Midwife on the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council Register. Applicants should enter the NMC PIN number here.
Institution at which registered for PhD	Indicate the institution at which the applicant is registered for PhD study. This must be a UK based institution for the applicant to be eligible for the award.
Dates of study	Applicants should enter the date on which they commenced PhD studies, the date of completion of the data collection and the proposed date for submission of the thesis. These should be confirmed in the letter from the primary supervisor (Supporting Documentation Section) Indicate whether the PhD is being studied full time or part time.
Name and contact details of primary supervisor (will permission)	Applicants should enter the details of their primary academic supervisor. Applicants are required to include a signed letter of recommendation from this supervisor to be scanned and uploaded with the form (see Supporting Documentation section). The Trustees may ask to see the original paper copy of the application form before an award is given. The Trustees will be looking for evidence that the applicant can complete the writing up process within the 12 month period of the award (24 months for part-time students).
Summary of research area	Applicants should give a brief summary of their research area. It is expected that this will include details of the research methods used. Please stay within the word count of 1000 words. You can make this box bigger by dragging downward on the RH corner.
Current stage of research	Applicants should provide details of the work that has been achieved to date and indicate which aspects are still to be completed. It might be useful to include dates in this section and it is expected that the work to be completed will be timetabled in the following question. Please stay within the word count of 300 words. You can make this box bigger by dragging downward on the RH corner
Timetable	Please itemise all work still to be completed with dates to show that work will be completed with 12/24 months as applicable. Please note that awards will be announced in early June 2026.
Other funding	Applicants should declare any other funding received for this work and provide an assurance that there will be no conflicts of interest if an Iolanthe award is made.
How will the award enable you to complete your PhD	Details should be given of how the applicant plans to use this award to complete the PhD. Please do not exceed the word count of 500 words. You can make this box bigger by dragging downward on the RH corner The proposed costs should be detailed and justified in this section. Applicants should note that the Trust will only cover costs that will facilitate the completion of the thesis. These cannot exceed £25,000. Applicants can also use this section to indicate how this award will be of value to them. This is particularly helpful to the Trustees and the external reviewers in



	choosing the award winner.
Main professional qualifications and previous posts	Applicants should provide details of qualifications and previous posts
Arrangement with current employer	Applicants who are employed should provide details of any arrangements that they have made to be released from their current employment. Although not a requirement, a letter of support from the applicant's employer may be useful (see Supporting Documentation section)
Additional supporting information	Finally please add anything that you feel supports your application but do not duplicate other sections of the application. Please do not exceed the word count of 1,000 words. You can make this box bigger by dragging downward on the RH corner
Supporting documentation	Please upload supporting statements from your supervisor and employer as detailed above.

*Save/Submit	<p>You can save this application and return to it later. You will be given or sent a link to find it again.</p> <p>We advise against having multiple applications on multiple tabs open simultaneously as this has previously caused problems.</p> <p>When you are ready to submit your application, click on Submit. You will be able to download a pdf of your application. You should receive an email acknowledgment of your submission. If you do not receive this, please contact awards@iolanthe.org before the closing date so we can confirm if your application has been received.</p> <p>Only submitted applications will be judged. It is strongly advised that you submit your application with plenty of time to spare to resolve any problems with submission. No applications will be accepted after the closing date regardless of circumstances.</p> <p>Saved but unsubmitted awards will be deleted shortly after the closing date.</p> <p>By saving or submitting your application you are accepting that your data will be stored and processed electronically for the purpose of awards administration and judging. More details about how your data will be stored and processed can be found in our Privacy Policy</p>
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The closing date/time for this award is 1 February 2027 5pm

